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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

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Cattle Numbers Down 2 Percent

Crop Reporting Board's annual inventory shows cattle numbers down 2 percent from a year ago. The 95.2 million head on U. S. farms and ranches January 1, compare with 96.8 million a year earlier and is the smallest total since 1953. The 10-year (1946-55) average was 85.1 million head.

All Numbers Smaller Except for Poultry

Inventory shows hog numbers down 5 percent from January 1, 1956; sheep down 1 percent; horses and mules down 9 percent. Chickens increased 3 percent and turkeys 17 percent from a year earlier; but the increases in poultry were not enough to offset the decline in livestock. Combined livestock and poultry inventory showed a net decline of 3 percent.

Meat Animals Down 2%, Milk Animals, 1%

On the basis of their economic importance, meat animals (cattle, hogs, and sheep) were down 2 percent from a year ago; workstock numbers, down 9 percent; milk cattle (milk cows, heifers, and calves), down 1 percent; and poultry numbers were up 3 percent.

Fewer Market Hogs

Hogs and pigs total 52.2 million head compared with 55.2 million on January 1 a year earlier. The 5 percent reduction reflects the cut in the 1956 pig crop. On a classification basis, hogs and pigs under 6 months of age are down 2 percent and hogs 6 months old or older are down 10 percent. Market hogs over 6 months old on January 1, 1957 (excluding sows and gilts saved for breeding) numbered 10.5 million head, down 2 million head or 16 percent from year ago. The number of sows and gilts at 8.4 million head this year was down 2 percent from the 8.6 million head on January 1, 1956--in line with farmers' reported intentions to cut 1957 spring farrowings by 2 percent.

Other Livestock January 1, 1957¹

All Sheep--30.8 million head; compared with 31.3 million a year ago and 33.2 million 10-year (1946-55) average.

Stock Sheep--26.4 million head, compared with 27.0 million a year ago and 28.7 million 10-year average.

Chickens--392.8 million head; compared with 382.8 million a year ago and 437.1 million 10-year average.

Turkeys--5.7 million head, 17 percent above a year ago; 10-year average was 5.3 million.

Workstock Numbers Continue Decline

Inventories of horses and mules dropped 370,000 head or 9 percent during 1956. The number January 1 at 3.6 million head was the lowest on record. The number of horse and mule colts under 2 years of age on January 1 at 194,000 head was down 3 percent from 1956 but was still only 5 percent of total numbers, and too small to check the downtrend in horse and mule numbers. Slaughter of horses under Federal inspection totaled 185,000 head in 1956, down 6 percent from the 196,000 head in 1955.

Livestock Values Higher

Although the aggregate number of livestock and poultry was down from a year ago, the level of prices has improved enough to result in a half billion dollar gain in total value. This year's January 1 gross inventory value of all livestock and poultry, at \$11.2 billion, was 5 percent above 1956 and approximately the same as for 1955. On a value per head basis hogs were up 40 percent; all cattle, 4 percent; milk cows, 6 percent; stock sheep, 4 percent; and horses and mules, 14 percent.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Dec. 15, 1956	Jan. 15, 1957	
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland(lb.).....ct.	30.99	30.21	36.56
Wheat (bu.).....dol.	2.07	2.09	2.49
Rice (100 lb.).....dol.	4.57	4.57	5.69
Corn (bu.).....dol.	1.22	1.23	1.80
Peanuts (lb.).....ct.	11.0	11.1	13.5
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.).....ct.	59.6	59.1	73.0
Milk, wholesale(100 lb.).....dol.	4.53	¹ 4.41	4.76
Wool (lb.).....ct.	² 45.6	² 46.7	64.5
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.).....dol.	1.03	1.05	1.34
Cottonseed (ton).....dol.	59.90	60.40	71.00
Flaxseed (bu.).....dol.	3.05	3.04	4.50
Hay, baled (ton).....dol.	22.70	22.90	24.60
Oats (bu.).....dol.	.744	.752	.864
Potatoes (cwt).....dol.	³ 1.48	1.56	2.42
Rye (bu.).....dol.	1.20	1.22	1.65
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.).....dol.	2.14	2.13	2.62
Soybeans (bu.).....dol.	2.27	2.31	2.98
Sweetpotatoes (cwt).....dol.	4.38	4.67	5.17
Oranges, on tree (box).....dol.	1.57	1.47	2.56
Apples, for fresh use (bu.).....dol.	3.05	3.24	2.85
Beef cattle (100 lb.).....dol.	14.10	14.90	22.10
Calves (100 lb.).....dol.	15.40	16.60	24.40
Hogs (100 lb.).....dol.	16.20	17.30	21.60
Lambs (100 lb.).....dol.	17.40	18.00	24.60
Chickens, all (lb.).....ct.	16.0	17.1	28.2
Eggs (dozen).....ct.	37.1	33.2	47.3

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

³ Revised

¹ Numbers on farms and ranches in the U. S. For numbers and total values by States, see the full report, "Livestock and Poultry Inventory". Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

cent. Chickens and turkeys did not show a price increase, with the average value per bird off 7 percent for chickens and 8 percent for turkeys.

Value's Per Head, Jan. 1, With Comparisons

Cattle on Jan. 1, 1957 were valued at \$91.60 per head, compared with \$88.00 a year earlier, \$88.20 in '55 and \$119.69 for the 1946-55 average (Values are farm values).

Milk Cows 2 years and older--\$147; a year ago, \$139; 2 years ago, \$134; 10-year average, \$174.60.

Hogs--\$24.70; year ago, \$17.70; 2 years ago, \$30.60; 10 year average, \$32.48.

Stock Sheep--\$14.90; year ago, 14.30; 2 years ago, \$14.90; 10-year average, \$17.05. Horses and Mules--\$71.60; year ago \$62.60; 2 years ago \$56.20; 10-year average, \$63.94.

Chickens--\$1.17 per head; year ago \$1.26; 2 years ago \$1.05; 10-year average \$1.40.

Turkeys--\$5.05 per head; year ago, \$5.50; 2 years ago \$5.33; 10 year average \$6.57.

Texas Goats--\$6.20; down 80 cents from year ago.

Feed Grains and Hay Plentiful--Pastures Poor

The total supply of feed grains and other concentrates for the 1956-57 season is the highest

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Dec. 1955	Jan.-Dec. 1956
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	19.6	19.7
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	2,580	2,541
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	1,410	1,484
Butter, creamy.....	Mil. lb.	1,386	1,409
Cheese, American.....	Mil. lb.	1,003	1,007
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	629	651
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	15.2	15.4
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	3,963	4,768
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	181.7	195.8
Liquid egg.....	Mil. lb.	453	465
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	23.1	22.1
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	342	349
Chicks hatched--Total ³	Millions	1150	1157
Chicks hatched--Broiler ³	Millions	1109	1125
Poults hatched ³ :			
Heavy breeds.....	Millions	11.9	13.1
Light breeds.....	Millions	1.9	1.0
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	13,213	14,087
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	1,487	1,532
Pork	Mil. lb.	10,027	10,305
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	744	730
Total red meat	Mil. lb.	25,471	26,654
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle.....	1,000 head	25,722	26,856
Calves.....	1,000 head	12,377	12,449
Hogs.....	1,000 head	74,216	78,674
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	16,215	16,069

¹ January 1956 and 1957.

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

of record both in total and per animal unit. Supplies are fairly well distributed except in drought areas of the Great Plains.

Hay crop was only 4 percent below the record 1955 hay crop. Stocks on hand January 1, though down 3 percent from a year earlier, were 4 percent above average. This relatively large supply of hay and forage was modified by the extremely low pasture condition over wide areas of the central and southern Plains States.

Crop Prospects Improve Except in Drought Spots

Precipitation has improved prospects for spring growth in many areas of the country. Only in drought parts of the Central and Southern Plains did effects of the weather through February 1 appear definitely unfavorable.

Crop Reporting Board points out that last month's rains and snows helped fall grains in eastern fringes of the drought area and improved prospects for early growth over most of the

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1956		1956		1957
	Jan.	Yr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	57.3	58.4	59.9	59.4	57.9
Farm employment	5.5	7.9	7.4	5.8	5.4
Family	4.6	6.0	5.8	4.8	4.5
Hired9	1.9	1.6	1.0	.9

Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)

Industrial production ²	143	143	146	147	146
Total personal income payments ³	157	161	165	165	---
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	159	161	168	171	165
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	148	151	155	159	155
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	112	114	116	116	117
Farm commodities	84	88	88	89	89
Food, processed	98	102	104	103	104
Consumer price index ⁴	115	116	118	118	---
Food	109	112	113	113	---

Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)

Prices received by farmers	226	236	234	237	238
Crops	231	242	239	240	239
Food grains	220	224	232	234	236
Feed grains and hay	171	185	182	185	187
Cotton	259	268	270	262	256
Tobacco	452	453	443	461	457
Oil bearing crops	236	250	262	264	266
Fruit	225	225	218	216	227
Vegetables for fresh market	248	254	264	277	249
Livestock and products	221	230	230	234	237
Meat animals	207	238	231	239	254
Dairy products	261	259	277	275	269
Poultry and eggs	205	177	164	165	155
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities	260	264	267	268	269
Used in living	272	278	281	283	283
Used in production	246	249	252	252	255
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	281	286	289	290	292
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted	522	536	550	550	554
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)	80	83	81	82	82

¹ Bureau of the Census.

² Federal Reserve Board.

³ Department of Commerce.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nation to the eastward. Snow cover arrived in time to blanket many fall sown grain fields against the bitter cold that prevailed in the Northwest. Timely rains fell in California; and much of the Southwest got badly needed rains or mountain snows, which helped the none-too-bright prospects for irrigation water.

42% More Winter Potatoes Indicated

Production of winter potatoes, estimated at 7,445,000 hundredweight, may be up from last year by 42 percent and more than double the 1949-55 average. The small reduction from the 7,570,000 cwt. forecast in January is due to slightly lower yields being harvested in Florida. Acreage of early summer potatoes, based on intentions to plant, will be up about 5 percent from last year; and early spring, late spring, and early summer acreage taken together may be up from last year by about 4 percent--304,500 acres in '57 compared with 293,600 in '56.

11% Fewer Winter Vegetables

This year's winter vegetable production is expected to be down from last year by 11 percent, though only a little below average. Marked reductions from last year are expected for cabbage, lettuce and carrots; smaller output also for celery, snap beans, green peppers, beets, shallots, spinach and lima beans. Substantial increases, however, are indicated for winter tomatoes and sweet corn with more modest increases for cucumbers, cauliflower and artichokes. Over-all decrease from the forecast a month ago is due to adverse weather in Florida.

Prospect for Oranges Better than Average

Orange crop (including tangerines) is estimated at 139 million boxes--nearly 1 percent more than last year and 17 percent above average. Estimates include 70.5 million boxes Early and Midseason (2 million more than last season); 63.2 million boxes Valencias (2 percent less than last season); and 5 million boxes of tangerines (300,000 more than last season). Both Valencias and the Early and Midseason are down from month ago because of poorer prospects in Texas.

Fewer Grapefruit, More Lemons

Grapefruit production, forecast at 43 million boxes, would be less than last year by about 2 million boxes. California lemon crop at 13.6 million boxes, would top last year by 8 percent. Utilization of grapefruit to February 1 was 18 million boxes; year earlier, 19 million. Lemons used amounted to 1.8 million compared with 2.2 million year earlier.

Milk Output up a Little

Last month's milk production, 9,697 million pounds was up from year ago by 1 percent and 15 percent above the 1946-55 January average. February 1 production per cow in crop reporters herds is above a year earlier in all regions except the North Atlantic which was down 3 percent.

On a per capita basis, last month's production averaged 1.84 pounds for each person per day

compared with the January average of 1.79 pounds.

Higher Egg Production

January egg production was above last year in all sections of the country except the West, where it was 2 percent below a year earlier. The 5.4

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, December 1956¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	9,707	6,516	16,223
New Hampshire.....	4,712	343	5,055
Vermont.....	7,911	571	8,482
Massachusetts.....	10,937	5,099	16,036
Rhode Island.....	1,346	440	1,786
Connecticut.....	10,003	3,403	13,406
New York.....	49,203	11,240	60,443
New Jersey.....	15,173	6,037	21,210
Pennsylvania.....	48,825	11,090	59,915
North Atlantic.....	157,817	44,739	202,556
Ohio.....	52,372	38,809	91,181
Indiana.....	45,927	38,231	84,158
Illinois.....	85,039	71,896	156,935
Michigan.....	31,088	22,502	53,590
Wisconsin.....	68,105	6,629	74,734
East North Central.....	282,531	178,067	460,598
Minnesota.....	74,175	44,886	119,061
Iowa.....	153,114	57,805	210,919
Missouri.....	54,270	31,924	86,194
North Dakota.....	13,670	26,113	39,783
South Dakota.....	30,024	11,707	41,731
Nebraska.....	54,187	25,185	79,372
Kansas.....	33,162	16,720	49,882
West North Central.....	412,602	214,340	626,942
Delaware.....	12,183	2,178	14,361
Maryland.....	15,843	2,914	18,757
Virginia.....	19,019	30,289	49,308
West Virginia.....	6,177	3,894	10,071
North Carolina.....	31,324	36,668	67,992
South Carolina.....	6,828	11,346	18,174
Georgia.....	28,360	6,665	35,025
Florida.....	12,710	50,308	63,018
South Atlantic.....	132,444	144,262	276,706
Kentucky.....	16,125	146,228	162,353
Tennessee.....	15,114	57,242	72,356
Alabama.....	13,867	17,321	31,188
Mississippi.....	12,711	34,641	47,352
Arkansas.....	14,594	52,753	67,347
Louisiana.....	9,599	41,461	51,060
Oklahoma.....	18,442	12,018	30,460
Texas.....	58,031	103,578	161,609
South Central.....	158,483	465,242	623,725
Montana.....	11,780	13,939	25,719
Idaho.....	11,791	21,616	33,407
Wyoming.....	3,261	3,174	6,435
Colorado.....	16,935	12,175	29,110
New Mexico.....	4,803	11,922	16,725
Arizona.....	5,563	50,055	55,618
Utah.....	8,882	3,624	12,506
Nevada.....	2,758	932	3,690
Washington.....	14,845	30,527	45,372
Oregon.....	12,443	20,018	32,461
California.....	84,971	191,453	276,424
Western.....	178,032	359,435	537,467
United States.....	1,321,909	1,406,085	2,727,994

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States¹

Source	Dec. 1956	Jan. ² 1957
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	2,728	2,500
Livestock and products	1,322	1,400
Meat animals	615	
Dairy products	371	
Poultry and eggs.....	321	
Other.....	15	
Crops	1,406	1,100
Food grains	111	
Feed crops.....	236	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	312	
Oil-bearing crops.....	141	
Tobacco	227	
Vegetables	92	
Fruits and tree nuts	140	
Other.....	147	
Government payments.....	40	
Total cash receipts	2,768	

¹ For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

² Preliminary.

³ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1955 average.....	\$ 975	\$ 396	\$ 579	41%
1955-Dec.....	960	366	594	38
1956-Nov.	984	390	594	40
1956-Dec.....	984	392	592	40

¹ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

billion eggs laid in January tops a year earlier by 4 percent, tops 10 year average by 9 percent.

More Layers; Fewer Chicks Planned

The 334.7 million layers on hand in January was 1 percent more than in January last year but 9 percent less than average. Increase was 3 percent in the South Atlantic States, 2 percent in the West North Central and South Central, 1 percent in the East North Central. Farmers plan to buy 9 percent fewer chicks than last year, based on February 1 intentions. Plans may be altered somewhat depending on egg and feed price relationships.

Feeding Less Favorable, Except for Hogs

U. S. poultry ration, mid-January, averaged \$3.58 per 100 pounds compared with \$3.39 a year earlier. Egg-feed, farm chicken feed, and turkey feed relationships were all less favorable than in January 1956.

Hog-corn ratio has improved ... in January was the most favorable since June 1954.